

December 2004

NORTHERN COMMAND

# SAFESTAT REPORT

*Nevada Highway Patrol*

Major Richard Varner

## Overview

During the month of December, the Northern Command experienced several storms which adversely affected driving conditions. The last two days of the month saw a powerful snowstorm that produced record precipitation amounts. Over two foot of snow was reported on the valley floor with over three feet in the surrounding foothills. The average monthly temperature was 34.9 degrees. From 12 PM on 12-31-04 to 12 AM on Sunday 01-02-05, the Northern Command responded to 384 motorist assists/spun out vehicles, 85 property damage accidents, 21 injury accidents and 38 vehicles which were abandoned on the roadways.

### Content:

Crash Analysis

Field Enforcement

Administrative Services

The Northern Command handled a total of 446 crashes in December as compared to 390 in December 2003 which is an increase of 14.4%. From November to December the total number of crashes decreased by 4 or 0.9%, property damage crashes decreased by 7.6%, injury crashes increased by 22 occurrences or 17.2%, six persons were killed in five fatal crashes and alcohol related crashes increased by 2 or 20%.

Commercial vehicle involved crashes decreased significantly after last month's rise. Property crashes dropped by 36.8%, injury crashes remained the same at 5 occurrences. There were no commercial vehicle fatal crashes this month.

The overall enforcement activity decreased by 2.6% which is a relatively small decline considering the increased number of weather related incidents handled by the troopers. There was an increase in DUI arrests prior to crashes of 21 or 31.8%, there was a 15% increase in the total persons arrested, there was a 14.8% decrease in speed violations cited, hazardous moving violations increased by 11.6%, and occupant restraint violation citations increased by 57.6%.

Total safety inspections conducted by Commercial Enforcement increased by 13.1%, however, safety violations citations decreased by 61.8%, safety violations orders decreased by 40%, and total vehicles placed out of service decreased by 76%. These decreases are contributed to the 1583.10 man-hours which were lost due to training and leave. During the last week of December, twenty Commercial Officers traveled to Las Vegas to participate in the New Years Eve Homeland Security Joint-Regional Operation. The focus of this operation was to interview and screen as many commercial drivers and their loads as possible. The inspections conducted were level 3 driver only inspections which decreased the potential for violations. There were numerous citations issued during this operation, however, to avoid issues with outlying officers returning to Las Vegas for court, all citations were written by Southern Command officers.

The Command received visits from State Legislator Sharon Angle and State Legislator Debbie Smith. Both toured the facility and met with most of our personnel. Additionally, Ms. Angle went on a ride along with the PIO. Both stated that they were impressed and appreciative of the activities of the Nevada Highway Patrol.

Overall the Northern Command did a commendable job especially in light of the adverse weather conditions encountered and the continued shortage of manpower.

NORTHERN COMMAND

## CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	December 2004		December 2003	% Change		November 2004	% Change
Total Crashes	446		390	14.4		450	-0.9
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	291		264	10.2		315	-7.6
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	150		121	24.0		128	17.2
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	5		5	0		7	-28.6
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	12		13	-7.7		10	20
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	6		6	0		7	-14.3
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	1		2	-50		2	-50
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	3		2	50		0	300
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	1		2	-50		4	-75
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	1		0	100		1	0
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	0		0	0		0	0
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	17		10	70		25	-32.0
Property crashes involving commercial vehicle	12		5	140		19	-36.8
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	5		5	0		5	0
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	0		0	0		1	-100

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 1.1%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 2.7%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 66.7%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 3.8%

- Total crashes decreased by 4 or 0.9%
  - Property damage crashes decreased by 7.6%.
  - Injury crashes increased by 22 occurrences or 17.2%.
  - Six persons were killed in five fatal crashes.
  - Alcohol related crashes increased by 2 or 20%.
- Commercial vehicle involved crashes decreased significantly after last month's rise.
  - Property crashes dropped by 36.8%.
  - Injury crashes remained the same at 5 occurrences.
  - There were no commercial vehicle fatal crashes this month.

## FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

	December 2004		December 2003	% Change		November 2004	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes **	12		13	-7.7		10	20
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes **	87		79	10.1		66	31.8
Other Arrests	380		382	-0.5		323	17.6
Total persons arrested (DUI included) **	176		164	7.3		153	15
Speed violations	1435		1575	-8.9		1684	-14.8
Hazardous moving violations	758		713	6.3		679	11.6
Occupant restraint violations *	260		350	-25.7		165	57.6
Total violations [above violations included]	4504		4512	-0.2		4625	-2.6
<b>Commercial Enforcement</b>							
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	12		9	33.3		13	-7.7
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	21		30	-30		23	-8.7
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6]	606		380	59.5		536	13.1
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only	1		2	-50		1	0
Total safety violations -- citation	89		228	-61		233	-61.8
Total safety violations -- repair order	767		591	29.8		1278	-40
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	14		15	-6.7		60	-76.7
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	15		5	200		32	-53.1
Total school buses inspected	59		62	-4.8		108	-45.4
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	21		22	-4.5		40	-47.5
Total trucks weighed	94		42	123.8		79	19
Total overweight citations	3		9	-66.7		6	-50
Total dyed fuel inspections	378		242	56.2		406	-6.9
Total dyed fuel citations	0		1	-100		0	0

\* Seat belt and child restraint

\*\* Commercial Enforcement Activity Included

- Overall enforcement activity decreased by 2.6%.
  - DUI involved crashes increased by 2 or 20%.
  - There was an increase in DUI arrests prior to crashes of 21 or 31.8%.
  - There was an increase in total persons arrested of 15%.
  - There was a decrease in speed violations cited of 14.8%.
  - Hazardous moving violation cited is up 11.6%
  - Occupant restraint violations cited increased 57.6%.
- Total safety inspections conducted by Commercial Enforcement increased by 13.1%
  - Total safety violation citations decreased by 61.8%
  - Total safety violation repair orders decreased by 40%
  - Total vehicles placed out of service decreased by 76.7%

## COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT

- December is the last month of the first quarter of the Federal Fiscal Year which ends September 30, 2005. The Northern Command Commercial Section is slightly down in several categories of the annual goal achievement although overall activity increased.
- The decreases in the goal achievement can be attributed to some of the inclement weather conditions, and the Las Vegas New Year's Eve operation that occurred during the last month of December.
- Commercial Enforcement scheduled a total of three check-sites for December, but was only able to conduct two check-sites. Neither of the check-sites was suitable for Level I inspections, thus, Level II/III inspections were performed.
- One of the check-sites was forced to be cancelled due to a snowstorm. Check sites will be conducted weather permitting as often as possible throughout the coming months to accomplish the inspection goals.
- During one of the check-sites, the PrePass was set up in order to fulfill the state requirements in this program. The PrePass was operational when several DOT officials arrived at the Mustang check-site to observe the PrePass program and our inspection operation. PrePass is not utilized at every check site but will be used whenever we have the necessary personnel available to operate the system.
- At the end of December, 20 members of the Northern Command Commercial Section traveled to Las Vegas to participate in a joint-regional Homeland Security operation. A total of three check-sites were operational.
- The Northern Command Commercial Section manned the Sloan check-site and the US95/US93 check-site. During this operation, several drivers were arrested for outstanding warrants including one for attempted murder. One driver was also wanted for questioning by the FBI for possible terrorist ties in addition to an outstanding warrant.
- School bus inspections were completed for the second half of the 2004 calendar year. School bus inspections will begin again in January for the 2005 calendar year statutory inspection requirement.
- The Commercial Section continues to handle and assist with accidents as needed during inclement weather conditions. Although this reduces the commercial field enforcement effort, there are many activities that the commercial section cannot conduct during these conditions. Given this, the time is better utilized assisting the traffic section with the numerous accidents that occur during inclement weather.
- The Northern Command Commercial Section will make a concerted effort during the coming months to increase the goal achievement in those areas that are down such as level 1 inspections, compliance reviews and interstate weight enforcement. Weather permitting and in lieu of getting uncertified personnel trained to conduct the necessary inspections, the goal achievement in many areas will increase without difficulty.
- In December, there was a considerable amount of training completed. The Commercial section personnel received a total of 644.60 hours of training. Several personnel completed their required "yearly" re-certification on many required classes. Four Commercial personnel traveled to Las Vegas to complete Part "A" of the NAS (North American Standard) training.
- In December, a total of 938.5 work hours were lost due to annual leave, compensation leave and sick leave. Most of the hours used during December were for annual leave. This was due in part to the holidays as well as required usage of annual leave for those troopers who have in excess of 240 hours. In November this total was 510 hours.

## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	December 2004		December 2003	% Change		November 2004	% Change
COMMUNICATION CENTER							
Radio Transmissions	90638		78056	16.1		86,362	5
CAD incidents	9288		10027	-7.4		8,909	4.3
FRONT OFFICE							
Accident Reports Processed	478		375	27.4		362	32.0
Arrest Reports Processed	159		272	-41.5		173	-8.0
Incident / Officer Reports Processed	6		na	na		9	-33.3
COURT / WARRANT							
Warrants Received	581		496	17.14%		668	-11.53%
Warrants Entered	241		331	-27.19%		197	22.33%
Warrants Cleared	514		432	18.98%		656	-21.64%
Warrants Validated	300		136	12.06%		502	-40.24%
Extradition / Transports	16		23	-34.43%		11	45.45%
EVIDENCE							
New Cases Submitted	21		40	-47.5%		24	-12.5%
New Items Submitted	35		68	-48.5%		49	-28.5%
Items Disposed	47		57	-17.5%		19	147.3%

## PUBLIC INFORMATION

- As 2004 came to an end, there was plenty of activity in the public relations office.
- In addition to the daily traffic reports and weekly radio talk show on AM 1400, we are now doing weekly traffic reports on KUUB FM 94.5.
- The month began with 2 northern Nevada troopers, Mike Edgell and Joe McKay gaining recognition from MADD for their significant number of DUI arrests at the annual awards ceremony in Reno.
- NHP also assisted the investigations division with “ringing the bell” at an area retail store for the Salvation Army.
- Several personnel from the division assisted with the annual event “shop with a cop” at K-Mart in Sparks. Uniformed and civilian personnel participated by taking a needy child shopping and helping the child spend \$100.00 in a shopping spree wisely. There was a good turnout by all area agencies this year.
- On December 8<sup>th</sup>, there was a big wind storm in Washoe Valley which resulted in 6 commercial motor vehicles being overturned onto their sides. These weather phenomena generated a lot of media coverage including national coverage by FOX, CNN, and NBC.
- We assisted in the driver’s education instruction at 3 area high schools and the community college in Carson City.
- We were asked to teach 4 alcohol awareness classes at Manogue High School.

- A traffic safety winter driving presentation for the BLM personnel in Carson City and at the Naval Air Station in Fallon.
- During the month of December, there was a visit from 2 of our State Legislator's. Sharron Angle and Debbie Smith toured our facility, met with personnel and Ms. Angle went on a ride-along in Pleasant Valley. Each was impressed and appreciative of the daily missions we do in northern Nevada.
- The month came to a close with a big winter storm which generated an excessive amount of calls for service, as well as several television, radio and newspaper interviews.

## **COMMUNICATIONS CENTER**

- The Northern Command Communication center currently has two vacant PSD I positions, as one candidate has a start date of January 24, 2005.
- A PSD I recruitment was opened to fill the remaining two positions. A hiring list for the vacant shift supervisor position has been requested.
- Total work hours lost increased by 17.5% primarily due to an increase in sick leave, with several dispatchers out with the flu.
- Comp time went up by 165%, from 24 hours to 63, primarily caused by leave for holiday events.
- The radio transmissions in December increased by 16.1% when compared to last December and by 5% when compared to last month.
- The CAD incidents decreased by 7.4% when compared to last December and increased by 4.3% when compared to last month.
- The center experienced a very busy day, on December 31, 2004 due to New Years Eve as well as a record setting snow storm.

## **FRONT OFFICE**

- Arrest reports processed, decreased from November by 8%, and when compared to last year – they decreased overall by 42%.
- Four hundred seventy-eight accident reports were processed. This was an increase over December 2003 by 32%.
- This month also saw an increase over November of 25%. A large amount of these reports are weather related.
- Six Officer/Incident reports were processed, as well as 40 office reports. December 2003 produced 66 office-generated reports, which was an overall increase of 39%.

## **COURT WARRANTS**

- The court warrants office received an additional AAI with the move of the Citations clerk into that office.
- This position will assist in the clearing recalled warrants and answering telephones, providing more time for basic warrant entry and the validation process.
- The number of warrants entered this period was 241. This is a decrease from last month of 22%, and a 27% decrease from December 2003.
- Five hundred eighty-one new warrants were received as opposed to 496 last month, a decrease of 11% from November.
- Clears increased by 19% this month when compared to last year and a decrease by 22% from November.
- Validations overall from 2003 have increased by 12% with 300 warrants being validated, as opposed to last month which yielded 502, a decrease of 40%.

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